

Nixon Cites Kennedy's U-2 Quote

By a Staff Reporter

CHICAGO, July 30—Vice President Richard M. Nixon today threw Sen. John F. Kennedy's own words back at him in the argument on whether the Democratic presidential nominee once suggested that President Eisenhower "apologize" to Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

Nixon's press secretary, Herbert Klein, told newsmen that Nixon had based his speech on a statement Kennedy himself had placed in the Congressional Record.

Nixon told the GOP convention here Thursday night that Kennedy had made the "rash and impulsive suggestion that President Eisenhower could have apologized or sent regrets" to Khrushchev for the U-2 flight which was downed in the Soviet Union on May 1.

Kennedy said yesterday at Hyannis Port, Mass., that he had suggested at the time of the Summit Conference collapse that "it might have been better to express regret than tell the lie that embarrassed us." He indicated that when both Nixon and former New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, in another convention speech, had said he had proposed apologizing, both Republicans were knowingly misrepresenting his words, spoken in Oregon.

(In Hyannis Port, Kennedy's press secretary, Robert Salinger, said Saturday that Vice President Nixon and Mr. Klein apparently are determined to misquote Senator Kennedy for the rest of the campaign.)

("Mr. Klein fails to mention that there's a full transcript of Senator Kennedy's remarks in the Congressional Record which clearly shows that he did not use the word 'apologize,'" Salinger said.)

Today Klein read from the

Congressional Record on July 23 a Kennedy insertion of a transcript of his answer to a question put to him in Oregon. It went this way:

"Once the Summit had broken up and gone Mr. Khrushchev indicated his refusal to continue I don't think that the United States could—but he said there were two conditions for continuing. One, that we apologize. I think that that might have been possible to do and that, second, we try those responsible for the flight. We could not do that. It would be highly unfair because the flight had been authorized and therefore that was a condition. Mr. Khrushchev knew we couldn't meet and therefore it indicated that he wanted to break (it) up. If he had merely asked that the United States should express regret then (that) would have been a reasonable term. To say we should try those involved—quite obviously that meant he wanted to break it up and we had no alternative but to let him do it."

Klein said Nixon's acceptance speech remarks were based on this passage and that he considered those remarks to be a reasonable statement of what Kennedy had said.